

more than 400 low-income elderly and disabled residents, its chaplains assist patients in St. Luke's Hospital, and its members participate in various community service initiatives, such as Peace Marches, gun exchanges for food, and hands-on ministries in the local neighborhoods. Clergy and lay members alike tackle the tough issues faced in our region each and every day, and for this reason our community is a better place as a result of their service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford upon its 75th anniversary. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking this organization for everything it has given to our community, and in wishing it well for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING MACHINISTS  
LOCAL LODGE 831 ON THEIR  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take an opportunity to congratulate Machinists Local Lodge 831 on their 100th anniversary. Local Lodge 831 is located in Cedar Rapids, which is in my district. Local Lodge 831 was chartered as Harmony Lodge 831 on November 18, 1913.

For over a century, the Machinists in Cedar Rapids have worked to strengthen the middle class and advance every American's right to collectively bargain. Machinists successfully implemented the 8-hour workday, helped outlaw child labor, and have worked to increase salaries for middle class Americans. In Cedar Rapids, Local Lodge 831 has provided good paying jobs to many hardworking Iowans. Since being elected to Congress, I've been proud to work alongside the members of Local Lodge 831 in strengthening the middle class.

I'm proud to call many of the members of Local Lodge 831 my friends, including President Brad Van Fossen and former President Joe Ironside. I congratulate every member of Local Lodge 831 on their 100th anniversary and wish them all the best for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MIKE  
GAYMON

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a strong community and business leader and outstanding citizen, Mike Gaymon. Mr. Gaymon has retired after more than 26 years as President and CEO of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce. He was honored at a Retirement Celebration on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce in Columbus, Georgia.

A native of South Carolina, Mr. Gaymon has been in the chamber business for over thirty-eight years. He led chambers in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Alabama before mov-

ing to Columbus, Georgia in 1988 to serve as President and CEO of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Gaymon has revolutionized the Columbus Chamber as well as the Columbus community in many ways during his long tenure as President. He spearheaded the Need for Land project between Fort Benning and Columbus, which resulted in land for the Muscogee Technology Park. He oversaw the Chamber's Riverfront Committee, which worked to set the stage for development of the riverfront, including the Riverwalk, one of the longest river walks in the nation, spanning 15 miles along the banks of the Chattahoochee River. The Chamber was actively involved in the first SPLOST in 1993, which opened the door for the construction of the new Civic Center and the enhancement of Golden Park, where the 1996 Olympics Women's Softball Tournament was held. Mr. Gaymon also led the Chamber in forming the Valley Partnership, one of the largest and most successful regional economic development organizations. Additionally, the Chamber created the Young Professionals Program, which has over 650 members representing over 200 companies.

Under Mr. Gaymon's leadership, the Chamber became the first five-star chamber in Georgia and one of only twenty-seven in the nation in November 2006. He will leave the Chamber in good shape with a \$3 million annual operating budget and a steady membership of about 1,250 firms, a majority of those small businesses. His economic development accomplishments exceed \$5.3 billion dollars with nearly 60,000 new jobs generated or retained.

Mr. Gaymon has been selected by his peers as the Georgia Chamber Executive of the Year and has been named as Georgia Tech's Top Presenter for Economic Development Workshop and one of Top Five National Instructors by the U.S. Chamber. He also has been named as one of the 100 Top Influential Georgians by Georgia Trend, among numerous other honors and distinctions.

The city of Columbus has also felt the waves of change emanating from the renovated old train depot where the Chamber is housed. In 2013, over 3,000 new primary jobs were created and more than \$148 million was invested in the region. It is home to successful and renowned companies such as Aflac, TSYS, NCR, Pratt & Whitney, and Koch Foods, which as a whole have invested almost \$3.5 billion into the region while creating more than 20,000 direct and indirect jobs. Furthermore, Columbus became the first Certified Literate Community in Georgia and has consistently been recognized as one of "Top 100 Places to Live in America," "100 Best Places to Raise a Family," and "Number 1 for Single Senior Citizens" throughout the years.

Mr. Gaymon has accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife, Sheila, their children and grandchildren, and his parents.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get, you make your life by what you give." We are so grateful that Mr. Gaymon has given his time and talents to shaping a team of dedicated business leaders to improve the city of Columbus and surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Mike Gaymon for his twenty-

six outstanding years as President and CEO of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce. His energizing leadership has helped this organization transform the Columbus community for the better.

TRIBUTE TO BARRY BERGEY

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 13, 2014*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude and appreciation to Barry Bergey, who retires this month as Director of Folk and Traditional Arts at the National Endowment for the Arts after a distinguished 29-year tenure.

Mr. Bergey's predecessor at the NEA, Dan Sheehy, spoke of him as follows:

"Barry grew up in the picture postcard town of New Haven, Missouri, on the banks of the Missouri River, population 2,000. His father was a minister, and Barry once recalled how sitting through the same sermon two times each Sunday prepared him for the many meetings he would sit through during his government career. After working for a time at Washington University of St. Louis, he found the professional love of his life—Missouri's rich store of traditions and the artists who maintained them. He became the state's first folk arts coordinator. His congenial persona, his cultural knowledge, and his dedication to serving grassroots people and their most cherished traditions caught the attention of Bess Lomax Hawes, then director of the National Endowment for the Arts' budding Folk Arts Program. Barry was hired by the NEA as a senior arts specialist in 1985 and became the program's fourth Director in 2001, following Alan Jabbour, Hawes and Daniel Sheehy. With 29 years of service to his credit, he is the longest-serving folk and traditional arts staff member."

Mr. Bergey absorbed the values of folk and traditional artists during his upbringing and worked to preserve and promote them throughout his career. With Julia and Jim Olen, he produced "I'm Old but I'm Awfully Tough," a recording of field documentation made in the Ozark Region of Missouri and Arkansas in 1975. As State Folk Arts Coordinator at the Missouri Cultural Heritage Center based at the University of Missouri-Columbia from 1983–85, he initiated a model statewide traditional arts apprenticeship program and a statewide touring and performance series. He also curated a touring exhibition on a 19th century housebarn in rural Franklin County near New Haven, Missouri, where he grew up. Mr. Bergey founded the Missouri Friends of the Folk Arts, an organization that sponsored the annual Frontier Folklife Festival at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and produced The Missouri Tradition, a public radio program. He also taught courses on the blues and on American folk music at Washington University in St. Louis.

In addition to managing NEA grants on folk and traditional arts, Mr. Bergey directed the NEA National Heritage Fellowships, the premiere American lifetime honors for individual accomplishments in folk and traditional arts. He provided guidance and support for folk arts infrastructure and statewide apprenticeship